

Testimony to the Government Administration and Elections Committee - March 17, 2010

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for providing the opportunity to address you today on the resolution pertaining to the Tenth Amendment to the United States Constitution - House Joint Resolution #65.

My name is Judy Ruhm, and I live in New Hartford.

I brought something for you today. Two acorns. For me they serve as a reminder of the magnificent Charter Oak and of a small act of blowing out a candle yet the greatness of this act as it enabled us to protect our rights from those who wanted to rule us. Now we need to make sure our states rights are protected as spelled out in the 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment.

Of particular concern to me is the federal role in education. I do not see that specifically designated to the federal government. It is reserved to the states and to the people.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment is part of the law of the land. It was designed to keep decisions close to those who are deeply affected. We have allowed the federal government to determine what is best for us, but they don't really know us. Even our elected officials in Washington are often too removed from those they represent.

I am a teacher - retired - but still involved in education by substituting. I have taught in public schools and in private education which included home schooling. I have even worked for the federal Department of Education in evaluating a grant proposal.

I am very concerned about the federal role in education. First because it is not their role to assume and secondly because I have seen how the best education is accomplished. I would love to see us educate the way we in Connecticut deem best. Local is best, and I see it as essential that Connecticut reclaim its right to do so.

So, today I want to present these two acorns to you to ask that you start with passage of Resolution #65. I'd like to plant the idea that more needs to be done to define how we can respond to any violation of the 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment. We also need to do the reverse of what happened the night our Charter was whisked away. That night the light was extinguished. We need to light the way for other states to follow as we honor our privilege of being called "The Constitution State".

I thank you for the opportunity to address you today.